

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 469

Introduced by Assembly Member Yee

February 16, 2005

An act to add Section 14109.8 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 469, as introduced, Yee. Medi-Cal: supportive housing.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Services and under which qualified low-income persons are provided health care services, including home- and community-based services pursuant to federal waivers and in-home medical care services.

This bill would require the department to develop, and request approval of, a federal Medicaid waiver to provide for Medi-Cal reimbursement for covered services when provided to beneficiaries residing in supportive housing, as defined, that is administered by a city, county, city and county, or other local governmental entity.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Medi-Cal eligible persons, who would otherwise be
- 4 homeless or living in shelters, who reside in supportive housing
- 5 receive crucial health services that may reduce their use of acute
- 6 psychiatric and medical services.

1 (b) Generally speaking, supportive housing is noninstitutional
2 residential housing linked to either community-based or
3 site-based psychosocial service supports.

4 (c) Under the existing Medi-Cal program, reimbursement for
5 providing an array of treatment services to Medi-Cal eligible
6 residents in supportive housing is complicated and frequently
7 results in the services being provided instead in more expensive
8 institutional settings.

9 SEC. 2. Section 14109.8 is added to the Welfare and
10 Institutions Code, to read:

11 14109.8. (a) The department shall develop, and request
12 federal approval of, a waiver or an amendment of any existing
13 waiver, to provide for Medi-Cal reimbursement for covered
14 services when provided to any beneficiary who resides in
15 supportive housing that is administered by a city, county, city
16 and county, or other local governmental entity.

17 (b) For purposes of this section, “supportive housing” means
18 noninstitutional residential housing linked to either
19 community-based or site-based psychosocial service supports.

20 (c) A program established pursuant to a waiver obtained under
21 this section shall not be implemented, except to the extent federal
22 financial participation is available.